

this case allows us to repeal the damaging 3 percent withholding rule, then so much the better.

At a time when the American people are extremely frustrated with the partisan gridlock and Congress' inability to pass meaningful legislation, this bipartisan bill would provide small businesses with much needed certainty and relief.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 674 be adopted; that after the motion is adopted, the majority leader be recognized to offer amendment No. 927 on behalf of Senator TESTER and others; that when the Senate resumes consideration of the bill on Wednesday, November 9, Senator MCCAIN or his designee be recognized to offer a second-degree amendment, No. 928; that no other amendments, points of order, or motions be in order to either amendment or the bill prior to the votes other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that following morning business on Wednesday, November 9, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 6, as provided under the previous order; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 674; further, that at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 10, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 27 as provided under the previous order; that at noon, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 6 and there be up to 5 minutes of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, prior to a vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 6; that following the vote, the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 27; that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the votes; that if either or both motions to proceed are agreed to, then further debate and votes on the joint resolutions be deferred until 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, with all other provisions of the previous orders regarding the joint resolutions remaining in effect; that at 2:15 on Thursday, November 10, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 674; that there be up to 15 minutes of debate on the bill and amendments to run concurrently, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendments to H.R. 674 in the following order: McCain amendment No.

928 and Reid for Tester amendment No. 927; that the McCain and Reid for Tester amendments be subject to a 60-vote affirmative vote threshold; that upon the disposition of the amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; that upon disposition of H.R. 674, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2354, the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

3% WITHHOLDING REPEAL AND JOB CREATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility to certain health-care related programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 927

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit a 100 percent levy for payments to Federal vendors relating to property, to require a study on how to reduce the amount of Federal taxes owed but not paid by Federal contractors, and to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the employment and training of veterans)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. TESTER, for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. REID, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, proposes an amendment numbered 927.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 157, H.R. 2354.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to proceed to H.R. 2354, an Act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 157, H.R. 2354, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Amy Klobuchar, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, John F. Kerry, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Tom Udall, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Carl Levin, Jeff Merkley, Ron Wyden, Thomas R. Carper, Daniel K. Inouye, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now withdraw my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEDFORD STEPHENS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a respectable Kentucky veteran, Mr. Ledford "Led" Stephens. Ledford, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, still remembers vividly the time he spent serving overseas in Europe during World War II.

Led grew up across the creek from Lower Cal Hill Cemetery in Pine Knot, KY. When he was 18 years old, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After passing two physicals, Led was allowed to spend 2 weeks at home before he boarded a train at Stearns station to Fort Thomas. There he received his clothes and was then shipped to Fort Wheeler, GA, for basic training. After completing basic training, Led spent a short time at Camp New Jersey where he received his "impregnated clothes," which were outfits that protected soldiers from gas—this was a clear indicator that he would eventually be shipped overseas.

A short time later, Led remembers boarding a ship in New York that sailed for 14 days and nights before finally reaching Casablanca, North Africa. After arriving, Led and his group were placed with the 3rd Division and sent to assist in the Invasion of Sicily. Led was assigned to the position of 30-caliber machine gunner on his team.

"From there, I went on to the Invasion of Italy. We went in there on a beach and fought our way up," Led recalls. "I met a fellow from Frazer, Kentucky, and we both promised that we